

MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

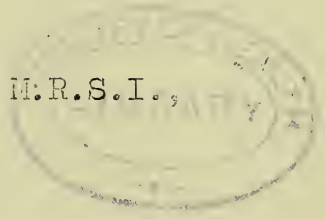
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING
REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1954

MEDICAL OFFICER:

Dr Amelia Evans B.Sc, M.B, B.Ch, D.P.H.
Town Hall,
Newtown.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

B. Brooks Evans, M.R.S.I.,
Plas Machynlleth,
Machynlleth.



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Machynlleth Urban District Council.

Chairman.	Mr Llewelyn Jenkins.
Members.	Major R.H. Jones-Evans, M.B.E.
	Mr G.H. Evans.
	Mr O.B. James.
	Mr J. Ll. Pugh.
	Mr Iorwerth Rowlands.
	Mr J.T. Royles.
	Mr T. Vaughan.
	Mr W.A. Breese.
	Mr R.H. Edwards.
	Mr E. Alfred Jones.
	Mr Richard Micah.
	Mr R.J. Rees.
	Mr John Thomas.
	Mr J.R. Owen.

Staff.

Medical Officer.

Amelia Evans.

Sanitary Inspector.

B. Brooks Evans.

Clerk to Sanitary Inspector.

Rhiannon Lewis



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To The Chairman & Members of the
Machynlleth Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much honour in submitting the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1954.

It is arranged in accordance with the instruction contained in the Welsh Board of Health Circular - 28/54.

Vital Statistics.

Births. The birth rate for 1954 was 10.75 per 1,000 population comparing with 12.83 in 1953.

The birth rate for the urban districts in the County was 14.96 and for the Country as a whole it was 15.50.

There was 1 still birth, being 5% of live births, compared with 2.6 in the urban districts and 2.3 for the Country. There were no still births in 1953.

There was 1 illegitimate birth, being 4.8% of total births. This rate being 3.3% in the urban districts and 4.3% in the whole Country. There was one illegitimate birth in 1953.

Infant Mortality.

There were no deaths of infants under one year.

In urban districts the infant mortality rate was 15 per 1,000 live births and in the whole Country the rate was 26.

Deaths.

There were 29 deaths in 1954 which was 15.59 per 1,000 population. In 1953 the rate was 10.16.

In the urban districts this rate was 12.69 and in the whole Country it was 12.33.

There was no death due to tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.

No action was taken under this section in 1954.

I must express my thanks for the co-operation I always have from Mr Brooks Evans. He is so reliable and helpful on many difficult occasions. His clerk, Miss Rhiannon Lewis is always of assistance in the office with an efficient and willing manner.

The Clerk, Mr E.P. Humphreys, is always available to give advice and assistance and this is greatly appreciated.

My appreciation is also due to the County Health Department and to Dr J. Ivor Jones for his opinions and advice on problems upon which he has had much experience.

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To the Council I would like to say how much I appreciate the interest they take in the duties of the Public Health Department. Machynlleth has some quite big problems to solve chief among which is the housing situation and the Council is anxious to speed up the building of houses in order to alleviate some at least of the exceedingly poor housing conditions which exist in parts of the town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

Amelia Evans.

Statistical Survey.

	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Area in acres.	1,183.	1,183.
Population (Registrar General's mid year estimate).	1,860.	1,871.
Number of Inhabited Houses.	630	630.
Rateable Value.	£9,313	£9,228.
Sum represented by 1d rate.	£36.1.2.5	£35. 10. 2.

Population Changes since 1921 census.

	<u>1921 census</u>		<u>1931 census</u>		<u>1951 census</u>
	Population.	%County pop:			
Machynlleth U.D	1,870	3.65	1,892	3.90	1,875 4.08
Urban Districts	18,270	35.64	17,408	35.91	18,008 39.16
Rural Districts	32,993	64.36	31,065	64.09	27,892 60.84

Vital Statistics.

(Based on Register General's Mid-year Estimate of population).

Live Births.

	<u>1954.</u>			<u>1953.</u>		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	9	10	19	11	12	23
Illegitimate	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total	9	11	20	11	13	24

Birth rate (per 1,000 population)

a) For Machynlleth U.D.	10.75	12.83
b) For Urban Districts.	14.95	
c) For Montgomeryshire.	15.50	15.5

Still Births.

	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Number	0	0

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Rate for Urban Districts	2.6	
Rate for Montgomeryshire	2.3	2.2
Infant Mortality	1954	1953
Rate for Machynlleth	0	0
Rate for Urban Districts	15	
Rate for Montgomeryshire	26	30

Deaths

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
All causes	13	16	29	11	8	19
Death rate per 1,000 pop for Machynlleth		15.59			10.16	
For Urban Districts		11.81				
For Montgomeryshire		12.33			12.39	

Age Distribution at Death.

	1954			1953		
Age groups	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
0 - 1 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5 "	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	1	0	1
15 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 -	0	2	2	0	0	0
45 -	3	0	3	0	0	0
55 -	2	2	4	5	0	5
65 -	4	4	8	1	0	1
75 -	2	5	7	4	7	11
85 & over	2	3	5	0	1	1
	13	16	29	11	8	19

Causes of Death

	1954			1953		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Respiratory tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and Parasitic diseases.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of stomach.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchies.	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	1954			1953		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Malignant neoplasm of breast.	-	1	1	-	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of uterus.	-	0	0	-	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	0	2	2	2	0	2
Leukaemia.	0	0	0	1	0	1
Diabetes.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	0	5	2	0	2
Coronary Disease, Angina.	0	1	1	2	0	2
Hypertension with heart disease.	0	1	1	0	2	2
Other heart disease.	5	8	13	2	4	6
Other circulatory disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis.	1	0	1	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum.	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hyperlasia of Prostate.	0	-	0	0	-	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Motor vehicle accidents.	0	0	0	1	0	1
All other accidents.	1	0	1	0	0	0
	13	16	29	11	8	19

Infectious Diseases.

The diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet fever, Whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, acute pneumonia, dysentery, small pox, encephalitis, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, erysipelas, meningococcal infections, food poisoning and puerperal pyrexia.

None were notified in 1954.

Tuberculosis in 1954.

New cases notified during the year - 5.

These were all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis:-

- 2 Boys age 5 years and 11 years.
- 2 males ages 57 and 63 years.
- 1 female age 36.

Cases removed from register - 3.

Two of these were because of recovery -

- 1) a boy notified with pulmonary tuberculosis in 1950 when he was 7 years old.
- 2) A man notified with pulmonary tuberculosis in 1952 when age 26.

The third case was a woman with pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1952 when age 28 and who left the district.

The total number of cases notified in the district at the end of 1954 was 28.

General Provision for Health Services in the Area.

Ambulance.

The local service consists of the St John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone, Machynlleth 158.

Sitting car service - All requests to:-

County Health Offices,
Newtown.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

Childrens Officer.

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Childrens Act 1948.

The Childrens Officer is:-

Mr S.M. Parsons,
Childrens Department,
County Offices, Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 228.

The Childrens Reception Home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 109.

Domiciliary midwifery and Home Nursing.

The district is served by:-

Nurse M. Roberts,
Brynmair,
Machynlleth.

Telephone - Machynlleth 129.

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitor for this district is:-

Miss E. Jones,
Cacwern, Corris.

Telephone - Corris 225.

Home Help Service.

Home help is available in certain cases on application to the Supervisor:-

Mrs R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

I would bring to the notice of the Council the invaluable service offered by Home helps especially in the care of elderly people in their own houses.

Hospitals.

The local hospital, the Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital is controlled by the Mid-Wales Regional Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. In addition to Medical and surgical cases, midwifery cases are also admitted.

Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory service at:-

Cardiganshire General Hospital,
Aberystwyth.

Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

As in previous year the facilities offered by this laboratory have been freely utilised, and tribute must be paid to Dr. N.V. Sudds and her staff who are always so willing to help with many technical problems.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is responsible for this service.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Church Hall, Machynlleth on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month in the afternoon.

Tuberculosis.

The service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest physician, Dr G.O. Thomas, holds clinics every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Chest Hospital, Machynlleth.

Vaccination.

In this district vaccination is carried out by the local General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Lymph for vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from:-

Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the age of nine months to one year, followed by a booster dose when the child goes to school at the age of 5.

The service is carried out by the local General Practitioners and by the County Health Service in the Infant Welfare Clinic and in the local school.

In addition to immunisation against diphtheria, protection against whooping cough is also available and may be given with the diphtheria injections. In such cases three injections are given at monthly intervals commencing at about 7 months.

This service is carried out at the infant welfare clinic.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY.

For some years prior to 1954 as shewn in previous annual reports, conditions were unsatisfactory, giving rise to a great deal of inconvenience and irritation to consumers. In 1953 conditions gradually improved as the work of renewing the trunk main etc progressed. In October, 1953 the main reservoir at Esgaireira was emptied in order to facilitate certain reconstruction works. The work took much longer to complete than was anticipated with the result that from January to June we were in considerable difficulty in maintaining a supply due to a succession of droughts and an empty reservoir. For probably the first time in the history of the water undertaking over a period of about 60 years it became necessary to pump water from The Nant Ffrydian stream into the reservoir in order to maintain a supply to town. This stream drains a big catchment area with farms thereon. Great care was exercised in the treatment of this water - it was heavily chlorinated and treated with silicate of Soda before it was discharged into the reservoir. The stream was also kept under constant observation. In June heavy rainfall solved the difficulties and the reservoirs were soon filled - for the first time since October. This was probably the worst emergency ever experienced.

Samples taken during the year from water delivered into the town were as follows:-

Town Water Supply derived from reservoirs.

Number of samples	-	16.
Number highly satisfactory	-	15.
Number unsatisfactory	-	1.

Maesglas Supply.

Samples taken	-	9
Highly satisfactory	-	9.

The one unsatisfactory sample went astray in transit and four days elapsed before it reached the laboratory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Conditions became very much improved during the year as the reconstruction works neared completion.

There was no outbreak of disease amongst the workers despite the presence of B. para-typhoid in the sewage.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Until the 2nd July the slaughterhouse was under the control of the Ministry of Food. On the 2nd July the slaughterhouse reverted to private ownership. During the occupation of the slaughter-house by the Ministry of Food, the killing of animals was carried out on the seven days of the week and as all animals were inspected the work involved a great deal of overtime. The slaughterhouse served a wide area comprising a part of Aberystwyth rural area, Machynlleth urban and rural areas, Dolgelley urban and rural area, and Barmouth urban area.

A report presented to the Council in March 1954 gave the number of animals inspected during the previous six months as 4955, and a detailed analyses of condemnations was given.

In November 1954 a special report upon meat inspection was submitted to the Council. Private slaughtering commenced on the 2nd July and up to Novr 1954 conditions were reasonable. Meat was consigned to shops other than those in Machynlleth and some small butchers from outside the area enjoyed certain slaughtering privileges. In Novr 1954 a local establishment began to cater for the daily supply of manufacturing quality meat to a Liverpool company and it was pointed out to the Council that so much time would now be spent upon meat inspection that other duties would be neglected. The report in Novr stated that from the 2nd July to 13th Novr the number of animals inspected amounted to 2600.

On the 13th Novr the killing of low grade animals for manufacturing purposes began and experience proved the ^{inspection} ~~work~~ to be arduous and carried out under difficulties due to the numbers being killed in a comparatively small slaughterhouse. From the 13/11/54 to the end of the year-about six weeks - 1016 animals were inspected and 34% of the cattle were found to be affected by tuberculosis. The low-grade quality of the meat was such that detailed examination of almost all the carcasses was essential and the work was done thoroughly to the exclusion of other duties.

The distribution of the tuberculosis infection in the T.B. cattle was found to be as follows:-

Lungs	-	90%
Heads & Tongues	-	31%
Intestines	-	not recorded
Livers	-	23%
Kidneys	-	4%
Pleura	-	3%
Peritoneum	-	3%
Meat (Localised)	-	4%
Meat (generalised)	-	4%

At the close of the year this extra-ordinary work was still in progress involving several hours each day.

HOUSING.

No slum clearance work was carried out during the year.

No state-aided houses were erected during the year due to difficulties despite vigorous attention by the Council.

NUISANCES ETC.

No of informal notices served	-	54
No of premises involved:-		
Houses	-	66
Other premises	-	7

(11)

Analyses:-

Housing Defects	-	12
Sanitary and Drainage defects	-	30
Unauthorised camping	-	1
Smoke Nuisance	-	1
Rodent infestation	-	5
Vernin "	-	1
Generally	-	4

Number of Statutory Notices Served

Housing Defects	-	1
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HOTELS.

Joint action with the local Justices secured an improvement in the sanitary conveniences of some of the hotels - notices were not served by the Council.

Heads	Livers	Intestines	Lungs	Omentum	Mesentery	T.B.	General Remarks
95	248	1	4				(1) Tuberculosis - MTL (2) The figure of "2000" in lungs column is an estimated figure as these condemnations were not recorded
							(3) Cestode - cysticercus tenuicollis - cystic stage of Taenia marginata - a tapeworm in abvent of dogs
							(4) Weight condemned - 408 lbs.
14	3			2	2		
2			2000				

General Remarks.

Part Carcases	Livers	Heads	Intestines	Heart	Lungs
1		44			
	20				
	4				
2	5				
1					
	2				
				1	
					7
			1		
4	31	44	7	1	7

- (1) Cestodes - see note under "sheep".
- (2) Percentage of generalised T.B. NIL.
- (3) Percentage of primary T.B. = 9%
- (4) T.B. in pigs tends to run "in farms"
- (5) Weight condemned 968 lbs.

